

*IN THE CLAIMS:*

Replace the indicated claims with:

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1. (Twice Amended) An elevator system comprising:

a hoistway including a hoistway wall and a bottom portion, said hoistway wall including a face and a protrusion projecting from said face into the hoistway, said protrusion being at least one member selected from the group consisting of a landing floor door mechanism, a landing floor sill, and a building structural member;

a vertical moving member ascending and descending within the hoistway along a direction generally parallel to said face and not interfered with by said protrusion; and

a control panel for controlling movement of said vertical moving member, said control panel being disposed within the hoistway on said face, wherein an area of said control panel projected along the direction of movement of said vertical moving member overlaps an area produced by projection of said protrusion along the direction of movement of said vertical moving member.

2. (Twice Amended) The elevator system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control panel is positioned above an opening in said face of said hoistway wall for providing access to said vertical moving member.

3. (Twice Amended) The elevator system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the opening in said face of said hoistway wall includes said landing floor door mechanism for opening and closing the opening, and said control panel is installed on said face above said landing floor door mechanism.

4. (Twice Amended) The elevator system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control panel projects into the hoistway from said face at least as far as said protrusion, and said control panel is located in the hoistway above a highest position reached by said vertical moving member within the hoistway.

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Add the following claims:

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5. (New) The elevator system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said control panel projects farther into the hoistway from said face than said protrusion.

6. (New) The elevator system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said face of said hoistway wall includes a plurality of openings arranged along the direction of movement of said vertical moving member for providing access to said vertical moving member, said protrusion projects into the hoistway from said face farther than said control panel projects into the hoistway from said face, and said control panel is located in the hoistway between two of the openings.

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